

First Congregational Church of St. Albans (FCC) is a welcoming community of spiritual seekers, believers, and doubters.

**Please know that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

To create an open and loving community that encourages a joyous exploration with God.

To work together to care for and nurture the wider community.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission as a community resource church is to provide a safe place for spiritual exploration and personal growth. To affirm the value of each person and to meet them where they are.

To connect to the community through personal service, giving, and pastoral care.

**Please feel free to contact us:**

Administrative Office: 8 AM to 11 AM weekdays.

Church Office Phone Number: 802-524-4555

Pastor Jessica's Office Hours: T-W-F, 9am-12pm

Email: [pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org](mailto:pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org)

For urgent, pastoral matters outside of regular office hours, call Pastor Jessica at 207-632-5544.

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**OUR WORSHIP SERVICE** IS BROADCAST OVER THE LOCAL PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 1079 ON SUNDAYS AT 4 PM.

**SCRIPTURE READER:** Sandy Cristman



***"WE WELCOME YOU AND SERVE ALL THROUGH FAITH."***

***WORSHIP WITH US:***

***FEBRUARY 5, 2023***

***10AM***

***REV. JESSICA MOORE, PASTOR***

***ERIN GRAINGER, MUSIC AND CHORAL DIRECTOR***

***STEPHAN CONRADY, ORGANIST***

***SUE POWERS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT***

***27 CHURCH STREET, ST. ALBANS, VT 05478***

***802-524-4555***

***INFO@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG***

***WWW.FIRSTCONGREGATIONALSTALBANS.ORG***

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

## CENTERING WORDS:

"A fine glass vase goes from treasure to trash, the moment it is broken. Fortunately, something else happens to you and me. Pick up your pieces. Then, help me gather mine."

— Vera Nazarian

**THE PREPARATION**

*The beginning of the prelude is a call to enter into the spirit of prayer and community.*

PRELUDE                      Gospel music                      Spiritual music  
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now,**

Let your rain fall down, **Let your rain fall down**  
pour upon our souls, **pour upon our souls**  
Come and wash us now, **Come and wash us now,**  
come and make us whole, **come and make us whole.**

Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come,**  
fall upon me now, **fall upon me now.**  
Let your Spirit come, **Let your Spirit come**  
fall upon us now, **fall upon us now.**

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS:** We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today and are strengthened by your participation in our service!

If you are new to First Congregational Church of St. Albans, please sign the guest book in the narthex (main entrance of the church).

If you would like more information about our church and its programs or would like to receive our Morning Reflections, and weekly e-newsletter, "From the Manse," please fill out a Welcome Card and place it in the Offering tray (be sure to include your email address).

**After the service please join us for fellowship,  
conversation, coffee, and refreshments.**

\*PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE

FROM WORSHIP DESIGN STUDIOS: REFLECTING ADVENT

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First Congregational Church of Saint Albans

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL MEETING \*  
FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Notice is hereby given that an Informational Meeting of the First Congregational Church of St. Albans, Vermont will be held on February 12, 2023 immediately following the Sunday service. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Article V, section 3 providing for three Informational Meetings a year, one to be held in February, and section 5A providing for two-weeks' notice for regular meetings contained in the By-Laws of the congregation.

The business for the Informational Meeting is to 1) inform the Congregation about the affairs of the church, 2) provide the opportunity to ask questions, and 3) to discuss any issues and concerns.

Dated at St. Albans this 27th day of January, 2023.

Judy Miller, Clerk

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\*Please note you do not need to be a member of First Congregational Church to attend. Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation.

MORNING PRAYER (UNISON)

Sovereign God, we gather as a community to worship you in spirit and in truth. May we resist empty actions. Let our rituals and routines hold meaning and connect us to you. May seek an encounter with you to receive your revelation and be transformed, healed, and renewed. Let it be so. Amen.

HYMN\*

*"There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy"*

NCH 23

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention—resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you. Amen.

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE MESSAGE

ANTHEM *Light of the World*

S. Schwartz

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 112: 1-9

MATTHEW 5:13-20

MORNING REFLECTION: "ADJUST SEASONING"

HYMN\*

**“Let Us Break Bread Together”**

NCH 330

## THE COMMUNION

BLUE BINDER

## THE THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER:

*HEAR OUR PRAYER, O LORD* D. WELPTON

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE ~

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever, Amen**

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*“THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON THEE.”* SCOTTISH PSALTER, 1615

## THE DEPARTURE

HYMN\*

**“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”** (1, 2, 4) NCH 417

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Remember Lorraine* S. Conrady

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### A Special Note of Gratitude From All of Us At FCC:

- Hadley and Alan Shannon, Thank You for organizing our first Game Night since COVID!
- Paula Delorme, Thank You for going above and beyond the call of duty by polishing the kitchen and hallway floors!
- Joel Magnuson, Alice Drislane and Mary Bostwick, Thank You for taking on the Welcome Home Initiative!

### Women’s Fellowship Breakfast

#### Great Food \* Great Conversation!

February 11

9am @ Green Mountain Diner

RSVP Sue Brown (527-6336).

### NEXT Open-Mic

February 18 from 7pm-9 pm

**It’s all about LOVE!**

Refreshments will be available.

Music: instrumental, acapella, bands, sing alongs as well as spoken word, storytelling and skits. Everyone is welcome: beginners, experts and everyone in between

For information and if you would like to sign up ahead of time call Greg at 802-324-0308.

### Bible Study

Our next Bible Study will meet on Feb. 8

Fellowship 6:45pm; Bible Study 7:00- 8:00 pm

Text: Matthew 5:21-37

You can join us at any time, call Pastor Jessica for the Zoom link.

**Music Notes:** This morning’s anthem comes from the 1971 musical *Godspell*, by Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*), a retelling of the Gospel of Matthew.